

# Lëtzebuergesch-Philippinesch Aktioun fir den Development a.s.b.l.



**Newsletter and  
Annual Report 2012**



# LPAD Newsletter and Annual Report 2012



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## President's Report

In the summer of 2012 I had the opportunity to visit and inspect the completion of the two projects that LPAD was involved with in Mindanao. MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS was funding “Reducing disaster risk and responding to climate change through mangrove protection and expansion”. For this reason Hugo Mahieu, from MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS, and I met up with LAFCCOD and KASAMMAKA together. WEGA was funding the KASAMMAKA “Community Home Lighting System and Small Scale Livelihood Projects Using Solar Energy” project, which I was to inspect.



*Edward Cardew  
president*

The last two years, getting these projects planned, implemented and completed, have been a great experience, though there were some dramatic moments. Hugo and I were meant to visit Mindanao in the summer of 2011, but the Philippine Embassy in Brussels put an end to that plan when hostilities and friction in the area were causing concern for foreigners. Then, on December 16, 2011, disaster struck. Typhoon Sendong hit Mindanao and the LAFCCOD area with it's full might. It swept away the house of the director of LAFCCOD, his two children were almost lost in the tragedy. Thankfully they managed to find refuge just in time. This event set back the project as LAFCCOD was part of the MERN (Mindanao Emergency Response Network).

In the Summer of last year Hugo and I finally made it to Mindanao. The visit was to be a memorable experience. Cooperation in Mindanao between the different NGOs in Mindanao was flawless, their strength in working together demonstrated when our four wheel drive plunged to it's death one evening in Tubod . Hugo and I had a new vehicle waiting to take us to Pagadian the next day as if it was planned that way all along.

These past events, and successfully completed projects, have shown me new strengths of LPAD and have caused me to rethink my role within the LPAD organization. Also I am torn between my duties as a father and a husband, and putting my heart and efforts into the organization. I have therefore decided not to prolong my role as LPAD president but will instead focus on our new projects with our partners in Luxembourg and in the Philippines. It has been a fantastic experience, and I have never been let down by the LPAD team, and I think it is time a new face gets to feel the support I enjoyed over the last two years as LPAD president.

Together with Luxembourgian NGOs we are working on three major new projects in Mindanao. It is in this worthy cause that I will greatly look forward to continue serving LPAD for the foreseeable future and I thank everybody who was involved with LPAD for making these dreams come true. For the people who had so little, when it is finally completed and they are thanking of you, with a sparkle in their eyes, for all that has been accomplished; proud to be part of a team, I tell them “It was not me ...”

Edward Cardew



## Secretary's Report

Every year is quite challenging for every event organized by LPAD, big or small, it brings assistance and joy to our beneficiaries. LPAD focused more in managing projects in Philippines through the help of other NGOs such as WEGA Aide Humanitaire, MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS, KOLPING, LAFCCOD and KASAMMAKA to name a few.



*Annie Chaboisseau-Gatia  
Secretary of LPAD*

We organized the usual events that we are involved with like the annual Parish Bazaar by Luxembourg parish where we were invited for four consecutive years to present a cultural show and in return benefits from the funds raised. LPAD took part in joining our new NGO partner KOLPING during the collection of clothes both in Mersch and Petange.

We continued the celebration of the Philippines Independence Day together with other Filipino organizations such as Philippine Luxembourg Society, etc. Our major event, the Charity Bike Ride was successful despite of the bad weather. We took part of the visit of the Vice President Jejomar Binay in Luxembourg organized by the Philippine Embassy in Brussels, and the two day Financial Seminar that our young Auditor, Mark Lee has shared to our fellow men to understand better how to manage our money matters.

LPAD continues with our objective to help our fellow-men on whatever way we can. Through your help, may we keep our strong solidarity and be the knight in shining armour for our fellow Pinoys hope. Mabuhay tayong lahat .

In 2012, as mentioned above, we focused on project management and thus the Karaoke contest which we have started in Luxembourg was not push through due to lack of time for the committee. Nevertheless, many fund-raising activities were still organized.

I would like to congratulate the committee members who worked hard in keeping the LPAD objectives running. The two successful projects in Mindanao are very fulfilling especially the solar energy which is currently benefited by the children.

The ongoing construction of 100 houses in Iligan for the Sendong victims is quite a fulfilment as well. I just hope that the solidarity that we have started in LPAD will continue to be strong . We may be the unsung heroes of our beneficiaries but I always believe that the grace is upon us if we help the deprived and hopeless.

Mabuhay ang Pinoy!

Annie Chaboisseau-Gatia

Secretary of LPAD



## LPAD cooperating in new projects in the Philippines

What's new about the projects that we support in the Philippines?

We have successfully delivered projects in the southern part of the Philippines with positive impacts on the lives of women and men, fishers, farmers and their children. To mention some of these impacts, the fishers in some of the coastal communities in Lanao Norte were happily waiting for the mangroves to grow. LAFCCOD is planning to expand mangrove reforestation to other municipalities of Lanao del Norte, while developing entrepreneurial endeavour. They will operate a fishpond which will adopt an organic way of producing crabs, bangus, and prawns. This fishpond will be run by the fishers' cooperative and is expected to augment the income of the fishers. It will also generate local employment and more women fishers will be involved in the marketing activities of this micro-entrepreneurial effort of LAFCCOD. MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS in Luxembourg has committed to continue funding the mangrove reforestation project of LAFCCOD.

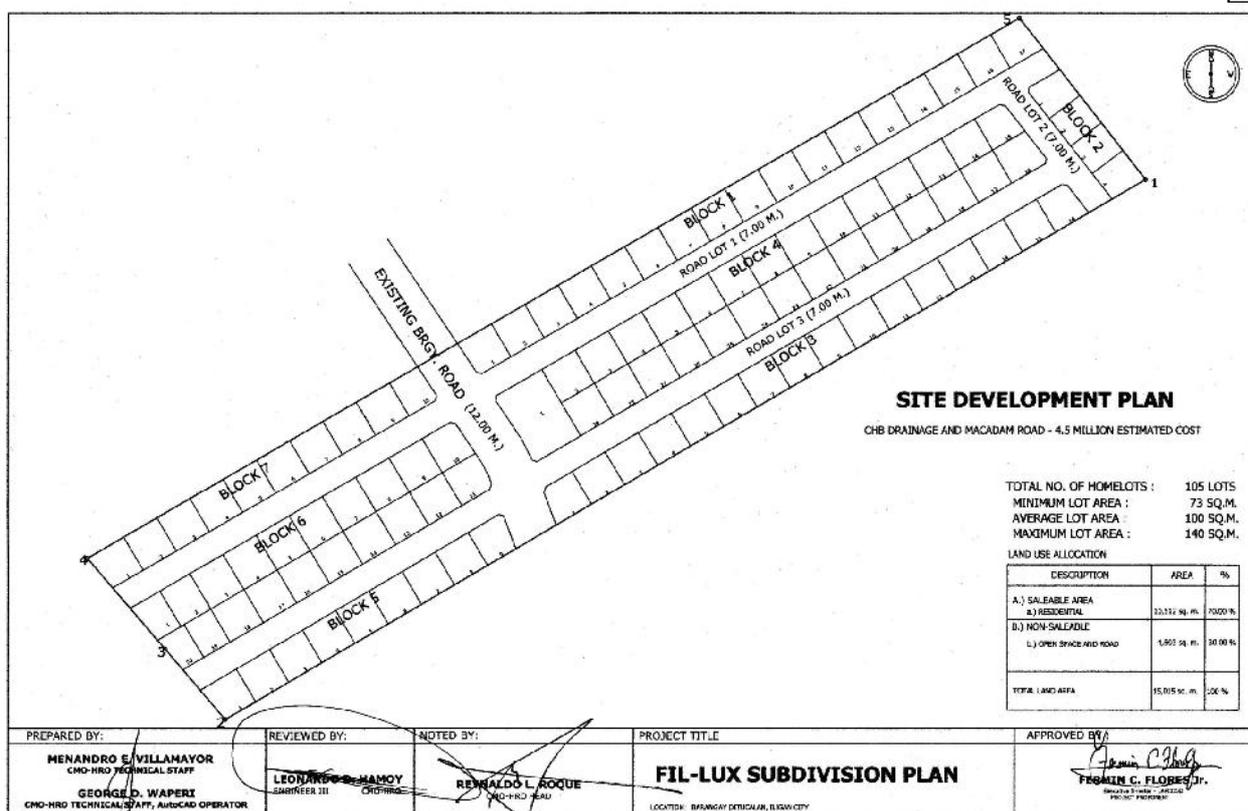


*Eva Olaer Smith  
LPAD project manager*

In the farming sector, WEGA, through LPAD, has found a very productive partnership with KASAMMAKA for alternative energy production. WEGA and LPAD give light to the dark communities of the farming villages in Zamboanga del Norte. Impacts are directly felt by the children of the farmer beneficiaries, who have a better performance in school because they can now study in the evenings. The solar energy also makes it possible to automate some of the production activities at KASAMMAKA's demonstration farm, such as the shredder machines. So KASAMMAKA is promoting an alternative and sustainable way of farming through the organic method. This year WEGA will continue to support KASAMMAKA's alternative energy resourcing, with focus on the upland farming villages. The solar energy helps in developing upland farming and increasing productivity in the rural communities. Cooperatives will be organized among the beneficiaries to manage the solar panels.



Meanwhile, Typhoon Sendong brought havoc to thousands of families in Iligan City in December 2011. A number of families lost their houses and loved ones. To date, KOLPING Luxembourg is going to fund a rehabilitation project for 102 families in Iligan. These families have been living in makeshift accommodation for more than a year now and they are still waiting for relocation and housing from the city government of Iligan. LAFCCOD and its' network of NGOs in Iligan have successfully forged a cooperation with the city government to provide a proper relocation site and housing to the 102 families. The relocation site is already identified and preliminary activities of the project are now ongoing.



In summary, LPAD will have promising projects to support in 2013-2014 and these projects will have impact on the lives of the farmers, fishers, and the victims of Typhoon Sendong. Below are the details of the projects:

Title of the Project	Total Project Cost	Project Location	Remarks
Resettlement Site Development for 102 Families of Typhoon Sendong Victims in Iligan City	€ 645,797	Brgy. Ditucalan, Iligan City	- waiting for MAE approval
Solar Home Lighting in the Upland and Off-grid areas and Support to Sustainable Livelihood Projects	€ 60,000	Zamboanga del Norte	- processing of the continuity proposal and waiting for the terminal report from previous project
Continuation of the Project Reducing Disaster Risk and Responding to Climate Change through Mangrove Protection and Expansion	€ 85,000	Lanao del Norte – Panguil Bay	- processing of the project proposal and waiting for terminal report from the previous project
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS 2013-2014</b>	<b>€ 790,797</b>		

Projects Committee Report, By Eva Olaer Smith

## Reducing disaster risk and responding to climate change through mangrove protection and expansion

By Edward Cardew

These last two years have been very exciting for LPAD as we managed to join potential investors with several projects in the Philippines. One such project involved protecting and planting mangroves in Panguil Bay. An investor was found with the fitting name MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS. A new friendship was quickly formed and Hugo Mahieu kindly accepted to turn this proposal from Lanao Aquatic and Marine Fisheries Center for Community Development (LAFCCOD) into reality.

After a failed attempt to visit the project in 2011 due to tensions in the area, it was to be the summer of 2012 when Hugo and I got a chance to visit the completed project. The management of the different sites and the scale of this project suddenly became very clear as, so far, we had only seen paper work and pictures. It was very gratifying to see so many people from different communities actively participating in the different project sites.

Hugo took the time to check the bookkeeping of the project and to inspect all the different sites involved. Happy with what he saw he kindly accepted to look into a similar project with LAFCCOD involving buying and restoring a fish pond. This would provide local fisher folk an extra source of income. This project is currently under review, and it looks like it will take shape this year.



LPAD would like to thank MANGROVE CAPITAL PARTNERS for having taken the initiative to invest in the Philippines.



*Hugo busy checking the bookkeeping*

**Aloha, Poblacion, Tubod:**



Mangrove Planting provided venue where different people from the community participated for the expansion of their mangrove areas.



People know that a one hectare of mangrove area will produce 1.08 tons of fish per year. This will assure them of their FAITH (Food Always in the Home) in the future.

**Kulasihan, Kolambugan:**



Muddy substrate planting site, where community have already planted 50,137 mangrove seedlings of *Rhizophora* locally called as “bakhaw”.

**Muntay, Kolambugan:**



Active participation of different people during mangrove planting at Barangay Muntay. They realized the importance of planting more mangrove not only for its economic benefits but for protection of their community from various disasters.



**Pigcarangan, Tubod:**

Mobilizing the community for mangrove planting including women and youth.





## **Community Home Lighting System and Small Scale Livelihood Projects Using Solar Energy in Zamboanga del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines**

By Edward Cardew

At the end of 2010 LPAD started talks with KASAMMAKA, a rural women's cooperative in Zamboanga del Sur. Their aim was to upgrade their farm to become independent of the constant brownouts by installing a medium size solar power plant on their farm, and at the same time to provide small solar generators to ten needy families in the mountains, so that they can have solar lighting at night, and not to have to rely on dirty and expensive gasoline lamps.

The project was accepted by LPAD. WEGA kindly accepted to provide the major part of the budget that had to be provided by Luxembourgian NGOs. The Luxembourgian Ministry for cooperation accepted to take over a two thirds stake on their side. Contracts were signed and the project went ahead. Sadly LPAD did not get to visit the site in the Summer of 2011 as tensions in the area meant that the embassy did not recommend a visit. Feedback from Dennis Yaun (Cercle de cooperation) who visited the site was however very positive.

Fuelled by the excellent feedback, I decided that 2012 I would visit Mindanao and check on the final outcome of the project. It was to be an amazing experience. Trouble in this beautiful island of the Philippines has left many areas very native and untouched. You really feel that the struggles are very much internal and that the proverbial Filipino hospitality prevails.

Bad weather and the little amount of time available, meant that we could only see the solar lights up in the mountains from a distance, but the slightly blueish light from the energy saving bulbs in the mountain sides being turned on at nightfall was a delight to witness. The larger solar generator plant was well built, "to European standards", I was proudly told.

The gratitude of the local mountain living people was huge. They reported that they can now do some work at night to earn extra money. Children's marks at school have risen, as they can now do their homework when the night falls, as they already have long walks to school and back.

The success of this project, especially concerning the mountain folk, has prompted LPAD to encourage a further project with KASAMMAKA for 2013 involving fifty more home to be provided with solar lighting using LED lamps. There is still some paperwork to be done, but in principle the project will go ahead. WEGA has, yet again, kindly offered to foot the major part of the investment for this project.

Again, I wish to thank everybody who made this project come to a successful end. It was a fantastic experience that I would gladly do again.



1 kW Solar Power Plant for the organic farm.



One of the ten Solar Electric Lighting Systems for the mountain families.



Children taking advantage of the electric lighting to do their homework.



Installation of one of the ten solar generators for providing light the houses in the mountains.



## LPAD General Assembly 2012

The 2012 Annual General Assembly of LPAD was held in the Grand Hotel Alfa on Friday evening of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Official procedures included the treasurer presenting the financial situation of LPAD and the members electing a new committee. The event was followed by a dinner in the hotels restaurant.



As stated in the statutory rights of LPAD, at the meeting that followed, the following roles were decided upon internally by the committee members:

- Annie Gatia - Secretary
- Dolores Navales - Treasurer
- Edward Cardew - President
- Eva Olaer Smith - Projects Manager
- Excee Tan - Strategic Plan Coordinator
- Gareth Raynolds - Committee
- Gazelle Peralta - Committee
- Georges Muller - Press Relations (Adjoint)
- Jean-Paul Schmitz - Press Relations
- June Encarnacion - Committee
- Marc Winckel - Vice President
- Marilou Iscala - Committee
- Vinzenzo Sportelli - Treasurer (Adjoint)
- Xenia Catacutan - Culture and Choreography

## Michael Lao Cu - Piano Concerts

The first concert with Michael was on February 2, 2012 in the prestigious Auditorium of Banque de Luxembourg. The event was very successful and gave us confidence we could repeat it in a similar fashion for more people at a reduced price at an even bigger venue.

So on May 4, 2012 Michael returned to Luxembourg in the Salle Musique de Chambre of the Philharmonie de Luxembourg.



Concerts were organized together with WEGA and Ernst and Young and under the patronage of the office of the Philippine Honorary Consul General to Luxembourg.

It was a huge pleasure to see so many people come to the concerts, especially those who took the courage to come to the Philharmonie “for their first time”.

LPAD wishes to thank Banque de Luxembourg for letting LPAD use their beautiful Auditorium and WEGA for their kind support and for footing the bill of the Philharmonie.





## October 27 & 28, 2012 - Towards Financial Freedom

Reading countless books written by well renowned financial gurus will give you the idea that education we get from school, even from the best universities in any first world country, prepares you for technical studies. But few offer a guide on how to become self sufficient and financially free.



Mark Lee

I believe this led the founders of our organization to make its primary reason to include in its mission the promotion of financial education. It was in this spectrum that “Towards Financial Freedom” was conceptualized. The whole concept of the gathering was to share the technical knowledge and experience in the aspect of finance, both personal and in business. The event was graced by a little more than ten enthusiastic participants, which provided a friendly environment, and was flourished by lively discussions and sharing of experiences that differed from one another. This also paved the way of a more personalized learning as each topic was discussed lengthily in the perspective and unique circumstance of each individual.

In making the course, the organizers had one main goal, and that is to simplify the technical aspects to the point that, as my professor puts it, “your grandmother will understand it”. It is our belief that understandability and practicality are the key success factors that would pave the way for the participants to practice what has been taught to them.



The main takeaways of participants were (1) practical budgeting using excel spreadsheet, (2) the true and simple definition of an asset and liability; and with what they have now, make a distinction whether they have an asset or liability, (3) alternative sources of income, which would include a practical guide to investing in stocks, bonds and mutual funds and (4) how to assess an investment or business as good or bad.

Given the genuine appreciation by the participants it is more than likely that the next financial literacy is just around the corner. So my advice to people interested in the program; stay tuned for the next financial freedom course.





## LPAD and CFC – Spaghetti Fund-raising for Sendong Victims

It is always a pleasure for LPAD to work together with Couples for Christ (CFC). A quickly organized fund raising spaghetti event was the reaction to the terrible floods that hit Mindanao end of the year in 2011. So on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2012 LPAD and CFC managed to raise €4500 together with a generous donation of the Parish.



Part of the money went towards buying the most essential things for the flood victims, including food, soap and school equipment for the children.

Couples for Christ and LPAD wish to thank all who cooked, for the delicious sauces, and all who donated either money or their effort, for their generosity.

## Other Events in 2012



Fr. Raul Caga, SVD on May 27, 2012 at 4pm (after our Filipino mass) at the hall of the Sacred Heart Parish gave a heart warming concert. In front of a fully packed parish hall nobody was disappointed.

It was a great pleasure to have Fr. Raul grace us with his charismatic presence. Many people bought his CD that day and we hope he can make it back to Luxembourg on his way through when visiting Europe again in the future.

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, Parish Bazaar together with CFC. Two Filipino menus were on offer. “House of Asia” sold Filipino products at the event and kindly offered five percent of their profit to both CFC and LPAD. Philippines-Luxembourg Society asbl (PLS) also kindly offered food and deserts for the event.



On January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> members of LPAD and other organizations joined to attend the second part of the training “Follow-up and Evaluation Management of the training on Project Cycle Management and Logframe” given by Dennis Yaun at the “Cercle de Coopération des ONG de Luxembourg”. Many thanks to Dennis for educating us to a better understanding of managing our projects.

In December 2012 disaster struck Mindanao yet again when typhoon Bopha hit the island. The Sacred Heart Parish Church kindly donated €500 for victims on short notice. A call for donations by LPAD was followed by many people and by SES ASTRA and in the end €2000 was sent the NEOS FELLOWSHIP CENTER in Tagum City. A Bingo event held this March 2013 should rise more funds for helping people in the same area. The money spent so far was for basic needs such as food, soap and basic building materials.

## Philippine Independence Day in Rosport, June 10, 2012

Despite the forecast from the days before, the weather changed its mind and behaved on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Rosport. Many families and local Filipino businesses turned up and took advantage of this unique get-together reaching far beyond the Luxembourg border.



Many thanks to our Philippine Honorary Consul General Mr Alain Kinsch for organizing the bus trips from Luxembourg city to this event. Like so often the co-operation between PLS and LPAD worked



like a charm. One association alone would have had difficulty organizing an event of the scale alone. Also our gratitude goes out to all those who, despite the possibility of bad weather, came to the event.

## Sponsored Bike Tour in Schengen

14<sup>th</sup> of July 2012, this time the weather was not really on the riders side. But that did not deter them from giving it their best. Three main trips were offered. Each one a round trip from Schengen down the Moselle and back again.



Xenia led the shortest trip, Jean-Paul led the medium distance trip and Gareth lead the ambitious team.



Upon arrival the riders were greeted with Filipino food and refreshments. The food was delicious as always, thanks to the cooks and the grill masters.

Markus and Edward decided to do a “wacky” tour. The aim was to reach the highest point they could find on their way from Trier in the morning to Schengen arrival in the late afternoon. Like always they were the last to arrive. Many thanks to all involved.



Want to get lost? Why not join this years LPAD Sponsored bike ride on July 13<sup>th</sup> !



## Upcoming Events

As LPAD is currently very busy managing three major projects, we are running out of manpower to organize social events. This is why lately you may have noticed a decline in our public fund-raising. If you miss these kind of activities, please consider joining our team and contributing to bringing these kind of LPAD events to life. Please also note the following dates in your calendar or check our Facebook or web page for upcoming events.

March 23      LPAD AGM at the Salle of the Sacred Heart Parish Church

Starts 3pm: 5 rue Dicks, Luxembourg. Entrance in Rue du Fort Elizabeth. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

March 24      CFC and LPAD are organizing a spaghetti fund-raising (Bopha)

Everybody is welcome to contribute with a sauce or by enjoying eating the food. Proceeds will go to typhoon Bopha victims.

July 13        LPAD Sponsored bike ride

Details to follow.